

THE IMAGE OF THE HEAVENLY

1 Cor. 15:45-57

How are the dead raised up? What kind of body do they have after they are raised up?

Relates to

1. Farming. vv.36-38
2. Creation. vv.39-42a
3. Sowing and reaping. vv.42b-44
4. Contrast between Adam and Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:45 *Adam*: first man Adam...made living soul

Christ: last Adam...made a quickening spirit

Adam--head over human race

Christ--head over spiritual race.

Gen 2:7

Adam given a natural human body.

Last Adam (Christ) made a quickening (life-giving) spirit. Able to restore dead to life. Romans 5:19

Descendents of Adam have natural bodies

Descendents of Christ have spiritual bodies.

Spiritual life not come first

but that which is natural... God created us first natural beings.

Later, we need to be born again spiritually.

47. The first man ... Adam, came from out of dust. Made to be earth-minded.

...second man Christ came to us from Heaven.

Christ existed eternally. John 8:58 - 59

48. As is the earthy, ... If you have been given a natural body you are just like Adam.

and as is the heavenly, ... As is Christ so are you also if you have a heavenly, spiritual body.

49. And as we have borne ... When we were born, we were born in the image of Adam.

Image: profile, likeness, statue, representation, resemblance.

We have borne: idea of wearing clothing, bearing continually. Idea of a habitual state.

Rom 5:12...sin, death.

Rom 5:14, 19

we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Some day we have body like Christ's. Phil 3:21 1 John 3:2

50. Now this I say, ...earthly body has no power, ability to get into God's kingdom. Present body full of defilement...totally corrupt.

neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Corruptible body never able to inherit or share in imperishable... immortal.

To go to heaven--must be given a resurrected body by Christ Jesus.

51. Behold, I show you a mystery; something not revealed or understood

We shall not all sleep: not all die.

Changed: made different. Transformed. Given new bodies

52. In a moment: that part of time which cannot be divided any more.

Twinkling of an eye: throwing...cast a glance; jerk of the eye.

Eye move faster than any other visible part of body.

Change will be instantaneous and extremely fast.

At the last trump: Military term. Believer's call to come to heaven.

First trumpet call believers hear. **1 Thessalonians 4:16 - 17**

dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

John 5:25 Right now we are mortal. We will put on immortality

53. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, ...That part of us that is perishable inherited from Adam must be transformed into heavenly bodies that are immortal and will live forever.

Death is swallowed up in victory. Death is overwhelmed, drowned, absorbed in victory (in complete rescue)

Lenski: *Death and all of its apparent victories are undone for God's children.*

What looks like a victory for death and like a defeat for us when our bodies die and decay shall be utterly reversed so that death dies in absolute defeat and our bodies live again in absolute victory

When our corruptible dying bodies have been transformed into spiritual bodies that will never die then prophesy by Isaiah fulfilled. Isaiah 25:8

Eternal life:

A special place prepared for us: John 14:2-3

Be like Jesus: 1 John 3:2

No more physical limitations: [John 20:19, 26](#)

Have new bodies: 1 Cor. 15

Our finite minds can't fathom the things God has prepared for us: 1 Cor. 2:9

We will be in a new heaven and a new earth: Rev. 21:1

We will experience something new about God's presence...a new dwelling place. Rev. 21:3

No more tears, death, sorrow...new emotions. Rev 21:4

1 Cor 15:55 *Sting*: refers to sting of bees, serpents and poisonous bugs.

Picture of awful harmfulness of death

O grave, where is thy victory? Hos 13:14. Looks like person suffered last defeat when lowered into ground for burial.

Lenski: *What looks like a victory for death and like a defeat for us when our bodies die and decay shall be utterly reversed so that death dies in absolute defeat and our bodies live again in absolute victory.*

1 Cor 15:56 *The sting of death is sin*: Death caused by sin. Romans 5:12

Mac: *Only where there is sin can death deal a fatal blow. Where sin has been removed death can only interrupt the earthly life and usher in the heavenly....*

The strength of sin is the law. The law is what gives sin its bite...sting..power.

Why God give law?

1. Standard of righteousness
2. Show us that impossible to live up to its demands without His power.
3. To show men depth of sinfulness Rom. 7:7

Four aspects of law:

1. The law puts on display and exposes sin.

Charles Hodge: *"Before the gospel can be embraced as a means of deliverance from sin, we must feel we are involved in corruption and misery."* (Commentary on Romans p.226)

2. The law stirs up sin Rom 7:8

Mac. *"Sin uses the commandment, that is, God's law, as a beachhead from which to launch its evil work."* P. 371

3. The law puts to death the sinner Rom 7:9

4. The law manifests the sinfulness of sin Rom 7:12-13

1 Cor 15:57 *But thanks be to God, ..*

A funeral among men is a wedding feast among the angels. Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)

A man should be mourned at his birth, not at his death.

Charles de Secondat Montesquieu (1689-1755)

*All our finite eyes could tell us
Was the sadness and the gloom,
All the emptiness and silence
Of the sorrow-stricken room;
But we could not see the welcome,
Could not hear the angels sing,
Nor the shouts of exultation
As the pilgrim entered in.*

F. Norman Barrington

At death we cross from one territory to another, but we'll have no trouble with visas. Our representative is already there, preparing for our arrival. As citizens of heaven, our entrance is incontestable. Erwin W. Lutzer (1941-)

Death is God's delightful way of giving us life.
Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

Death is merely moving from one home to another.
The Kotzker Rabbi (1787-1859)

Death: a punishment to some, to some a gift, and to many a favor.
Lucius Annaeus Seneca (C. 4 B.C.-A.D. 65)

God's eternity and man's mortality join to persuade us that faith in Jesus Christ is not optional. A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)